

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 086496
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 086496

E.O. 11652:ADS-DECLASSIFY UPON COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS

TAGS: MARR, OCLR, BR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN OPERATING RIGHTS - PROJECT 6687

1. THE US AIR FORCE GEOPHYSICS LABORATORY HAS A REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN THE STRATOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT IN EQUATORIAL LATITUDES. THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH IS TO DETERMINE THE MAGNITUDE AND DIRECTION OF STRATOSPHERIC WINDS AND WIND SHEARS AS WELL AS TO MARK ON-GOING TURBULENCE LAYERS AS A FUNCTION OF LATITUDE. REQUEST EMBASSY SEEK APPROVAL OF HOST GOVERNMENT FOR THE OPERATIONS DETAILED BELOW.

2. USAF PROPOSES TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE STRATOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT IN THE EQUATORIAL LATITUDES. TO ACCOMPLISH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 086496

THIS IN THE MOST ECONOMIC MANNER WOULD REQUIRE THE USE OF THE BRAZILIAN ROCKET RANGE AT NATAL, BRAZIL AND TWO OR THREE CAMERA SITE LOCATIONS WITHIN A 50KM RADIUS OF THE RANGE. THE STUDY WOULD CONSIST OF TIME LAPSE PHOTOGRAPHY OF CHEMICAL SMOKE TRAILS DISPENSED FROM SOUNDING ROCKETS LAUNCHED FROM THE BRAZILIAN ROCKET RANGE. THE CHEMICAL SMOKE TRAILS WOULD BE DISPENSED AT ALTITUDES

RANGING FROM 15 TO 50KM. TIME LAPSE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SITES WOULD THEN BE TAKEN OF THE TRAILS TO PROVIDE DENSITY AND POSITION DATA. SUBSEQUENT ANALYSIS OF

THESE PHOTOGRAPHS WOULD LEAD TO A DETERMINATION OF HIGH ALTITUDE WINDS, WIND SHEARS AS A FUNCTION OF ALTITUDE, AND THE DEFINITION OF THE SPECTRAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ON-GOING TURBULENCE.

3. THE OPERATION WOULD CONSIST OF THE LAUNCH OF THREE NIKE-NIKE SOUNDING ROCKETS WHICH WOULD BE IMPORTED TO BRAZIL VIA COMMERCIAL SHIP BY THE USAF. THE OPTICAL INSTRUMENTATION WOULD CONSIST OF 10 MODIFIED K-46 AERIAL CAMERAS MOUNTED IN PAIRS AND POWERED BY HEAVY DUTY BATTERIES WHICH WOULD BE DELIVERED TO BRAZIL BY COMMERCIAL AIR FREIGHT. THE LAUNCH WINDOW WOULD EXTEND OVER A MAXIMUM PERIOD OF THREE WEEKS DURING THE 1 APR -

31 MAY 79 TIME FRAME DEPENDING UPON WEATHER/ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS. ALL LAUNCHES WOULD TAKE PLACE DURING THE HOURS OF TWILIGHT ON SEPARATE DAYS WHEN CLEAR ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS EXIST. CONTINUOUS COMMUNICATION (TELEPHONE OR RADIO) WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR EACH LAUNCH BETWEEN THE OPTICAL SITES AND THE LAUNCH SITE IN ORDER TO HAVE UP-TO-THE-MINUTE WEATHER INFORMATION AND TO SYNCHRONIZE THE OPERATION OF THE CAMERAS. SHOULD RADIO

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 086496

COMMUNICATION BE REQUIRED, FREQUENCY CLEARANCES WOULD BE OBTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH AFR 100-31.

4. A SURVEY TEAM WOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED TO VISIT THE BRAZILIAN ROCKET RANGE TWO OR THREE MONTHS BEFORE EXPERIMENTS BEGIN TO EXAMINE POTENTIAL CAMERA SITES AND SELECT THE MOST ADVANTAGEOUS LOCATIONS FOR THE CAMERAS BASED ON GEOMETRY AND AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES. THE SURVEY TEAM WOULD CONSIST OF TWO PERSONNEL AND WOULD BE IN BRAZIL FOR APPROXIMATELY 10-15 DAYS, STARTING 15 JAN 1979. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT A TOTAL OF EIGHT PERSONNEL WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE ACTUAL PROJECT, ALL OF WHOM WOULD BE US CITIZENS.

5. ALL DATA RELATED TO THE PROJECT WOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED AND WOULD BE RELEASABLE TO THE HOST GOVERNMENT ON REQUEST. THIS DATA MAY BE OF VALUE TO HOST SCIENTISTS IN TERMS OF THE RESIDENCE TIMES OF POLLUTANTS IN THE STRATOSPHERE AND THEIR EFFECTS ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF OZONE.

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